

Creating Your Financial Future

A Financial "Tip" Sheet
2000- 5

Dollars & Sense

The biggest mistake you can make is to believe that you are working for someone else.

From Bits & Pieces

Are Your Kids Financially Savy?

Most hard-working parents spend time and money providing their children with the things that will give them a "shot" at having a successful life; i.e. tutors, computers, braces and organizational sports to name a few. But recent evidence indicates that parents are not proving their children with good financial sense...a necessity for surviving in the real world.

The ability to manage personal finances is a fundamental life skill that must be taught," says Donna Duguay, Executive Director of Jumpstart, a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching financial literacy to our young people.

She suggests the following tips for mom and dad to help every parent instill some good dollars and sense in their children:

- **Start Early** - Experts say that once your children understand that money is used to buy things they are ready to learn more. Kids need to know where money comes from and how it is used
- **Let children learn by doing** - The best way to learn how financial institutions work is to use one. Check with banks and credit unions for special accounts for children. The Young Americans Bank in Denver offers banking services to kids ages newborn to twenty-two.
- **Give your kids an allowance** - it teaches kids how to spend money independently. The goal of an allowance is to have children be accountable for handling all their expenses before he/she leaves for college. Let kids learn from their mistakes in handling their money.
- **Teach kids to distinguish between wants and needs** - basic money management is taking care of needs first then the wants. Discuss the difference with your kids.
- **Be a good role model** - talk out loud about your financial decisions so kids can hear and learn. Let them be part of the decision-making process.